

NOTE

First Establishment of *Rhinocyllus conicus* (Froelich) in  
Maryland and Pennsylvania for Thistle Control  
(Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

An introduced European weevil, *Rhinocyllus conicus* (Froelich), was released on *Carduus nutans* L., *C. acanthoides* L., and *Onopordum* sp. in Maryland and Pennsylvania in 1975 at 10 sites; in 1976 at 19 sites; in 1977 at 9 sites; in 1978 at 12 sites; and in 1979 at 7 sites. These beetles were collected at White Hall, Frederick Co., Virginia, and released during the above years at sites in the following counties: Prince Georges, Frederick, Washington, and Baltimore in Maryland; York, Cumberland, Franklin, Centre, and Dauphin in Pennsylvania. As a result, populations have become established since 1978 and are spreading on *C. nutans* at 7 of 11 locations checked in 1979: Beltsville, Md. (100% plants infested); jct. Interstate 70 and Appalachian Trail, Md. (50% plants infested); Ft. Detrick, Md. (9% infestation); Greencastle, Pa. (93% infestation); Pinola, Pa. (10% infestation); Scotland, Pa. (30% infestation); Shippensburg, Pa. (75% infestation); and on *C. acanthoides* at State College, Pa. This insect has proven effective in controlling *Carduus nutans* in other regions (L. T. Kok and W. W. Surles, 1975, Environ. Entomol. 4: 1025-1027; N. E. Rees, 1977, Environ. Entomol. 6: 839-842; B. Puttler, S. H. Long, and E. J. Peters, 1978, Weed Sci. 26: 188-190). The spread and impact of these first population establishments in the northeastern states will continue to be evaluated. The cooperation of L. T. Kok (V.P.I.); M. N. Pope (Md. Dep. Agric.); J. Z. Shearer (Pa. Dep. Agric.); R. Moffett (Md. Highway Admin.); R. S. Ross (Pa. Dep. Transportation); R. A. Byers (U.S.D.A.) and many landowners is gratefully acknowledged.

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